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FINAL ISSUE

JOB VACANCIES, MARCH 1978

(FINAL ISSUE. As part of the measures necessary to bring the activities of the ABS within the resources available to it, the surveys of job vacancies have been terminated. This bulletin is therefore the last in the series.)

INQUIRIES

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Introduction

Since March 1974, sample surveys of employers have been conducted annually by mail throughout Australia to obtain information about job vacancies. Smaller sample surveys were conducted by telephone at quarterly intervals, from May 1977 to May 1978. Preliminary results of the March 1978 job vacancy survey were published on 13 July 1978 in *Job Vacancies, May 1978* (6231.0), which also contained a summary of the results of all quarterly and annual surveys since March 1974. Revised and more detailed estimates, together with a summary of results of all previous annual surveys are contained in this bulletin.

Scope and coverage

2. The surveys covered vacancies in private employment and in Australian, State and local government employment. All vacancies for wage and salary earners were included except those:

- . in the defence forces
- . in agriculture
- . in private households employing staff
- . for waterside workers employed on a casual basis, and
- . for employees of private employers (other than hospitals) not subject to payroll tax.

3. Included in the survey results are vacancies for all categories of employees, including managerial, full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and seasonal employees; and adults, juniors, trainees, apprentices, cadets, etc. Excluded are vacancies about to be filled by persons already hired, by promotion or transfer of existing employees, or by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes. Also excluded are vacancies that were not immediately available for filling on the survey date, that is, those that became available after the specified date, and vacancies for work to be done under contract, such as by building sub-contractors, owner-drivers, etc.

4. Because of limitations in scope and coverage, the survey results do not give estimates of the total number of job vacancies in Australia.

Sample design

5. Respondents included in the annual surveys were selected from lists of private and government employers stratified by State, industry and number of employees. In the government sector all Australian and State government bodies were included and all local government authorities with 250 or more employees. All private employers with 500 or more employees were included. The remaining government and private employers were sampled. The number of employers in the March 1978 survey was about 8,300.

Definitions

6. A *job vacancy* was defined as a job immediately available for filling on the survey date and for which active steps were being taken by the employer to find or recruit an employee from outside the enterprise or authority in the particular State or Territory. Active steps to find or recruit an employee included efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying government or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or authority.

7. *Vacancies for males or females* are those jobs open to male or female applicants without preference.

8. *Vacancies for adults* comprise those for which the adult rate of pay would be paid, and all vacancies open to either adult or junior applicants without preference.

9. *Vacancies for juniors* are those open to applicants under 21 years of age who would not be paid at the adult rate for the occupation. Vacancies for apprentices, trainees, cadets and other juniors were reported against the occupation for which they were to be trained.

10. *Private sector* refers to private employers subject to payroll tax and employees of non-government hospitals not subject to payroll tax.

11. *Government sector* refers to employees of Australian and State government departments, authorities and semi-government bodies and of local government authorities.

12. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

Reliability of the estimates

13. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of employers, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from all employers. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of employers was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all employers had been included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

14. Relative standard errors of estimates in this bulletin are less than 20 per cent except where indicated. Estimates with relative standard errors of 30 per cent and over are not shown. Approximate percentage standard errors of estimates of total vacancies for each State and Territory and for Australia in March are: New South Wales 5.0; Victoria 4.6; Queensland 10.5; South Australia 6.5; Western Australia 9.8; Tasmania 9.7; Northern Territory 6.7; Australian Capital Territory 6.9 and Australia 2.7. Thus there are, for example, about two chances in three that the true figure for the number of job vacancies shown for Australia in Table 1 for March 1978 was within the range 35,300 to 37,300 (i.e. $36,300 \pm 2.7$ per cent of 36,300).

Quarterly and annual survey estimates

15. Owing to differences in sample size and survey methodology, and because of possible seasonal influences (see paragraph 16), comparisons with results of the quarterly job vacancy surveys should be made with caution. Estimates for May 1978 are shown in *Job Vacancies, May 1978* (6231.0).

Seasonal factors

16. Comparison of job vacancy figures at different dates may be affected by seasonal influences. This should be kept in mind when comparing estimates in this

bulletin with those from the quarterly series, which have not been seasonally adjusted.

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service statistics

17. For a number of reasons the estimates obtained from the surveys differ from the number of vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). The principal reason is that, because notification of vacancies is voluntary, many vacancies are not registered with the CES. Other reasons are:

- the survey estimates relate to vacancies immediately available for filling on the survey date, whereas the CES statistics relate to vacancies which were unfilled at the Friday nearest the end of the month and which employers claimed could be filled if labour were supplied immediately or within the following month.
- the coverage of the job vacancy surveys is somewhat restricted (see paragraphs 2-4) and the results are subject to sampling variability (see paragraphs 13 and 14).
- the CES figures may include some vacancies already filled or cancelled by the date at which the figures are compiled, but about which the CES may not have been notified.

Related publications

18. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

Job Vacancies (6231.0)
Unemployment (Preliminary Estimates) (6201.0)
The Labour Force (Preliminary) (6202.0)
The Labour Force (6203.0)
Civilian Employees (6213.0)

19. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or less than half the final digit shown.
- n.a. not available.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

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 Australian Statistician

JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1974 TO MARCH 1978
 Comparison of CES and survey figures

	March —				
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Registered with the CES (a)	85,300	32,900	22,200	22,300	19,500
ABS survey	165,200	55,200	50,800	49,600	36,300
Ratio of CES to survey figures (per cent) (b)	52	60	44	45	54

(a) Excludes primary production. (b) Because the coverage of the surveys was somewhat restricted (see paragraph 2) the percentages may be somewhat overstated by the exclusion of some vacancies.

TABLE 1. JOB VACANCIES, MARCH 1974 TO MARCH 1978

March -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia			
									For adults	For juniors	Total	
											(['] 000)	Per cent
Number (['] 000)												
FOR MALES												
1974	41.0	32.1	13.3	9.0	7.1	1.7	0.8	1.4	97.0	9.3	106.4	64.6
1975	11.6	8.5	3.4	2.4	3.3	0.9	0.9	0.7	28.3	3.3	31.7	57.3
1976	8.2	10.0	3.1	2.3	2.5	(a)1.0	*	(a)0.3	25.0	2.8	27.8	54.8
1977	8.1	11.0	2.8	1.7	2.5	0.9	(a)0.3	0.3	25.0	2.5	27.5	55.5
1978	7.5	5.6	1.6	0.7	1.8	0.4	0.2	*	16.2	1.8	17.9	49.4
FOR FEMALES												
1974	14.4	13.4	5.7	2.4	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	29.4	9.7	39.2	23.7
1975	4.7	2.9	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.4	3.0	11.3	20.5
1976	(a)4.0	3.8	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	*	0.2	8.7	2.4	11.1	21.9
1977	3.0	2.6	(a)0.7	0.5	(a)0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	6.1	1.8	7.9	15.9
1978	2.0	1.2	(a)0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	-	0.1	3.4	1.5	4.9	13.4
FOR MALES OR FEMALES												
1974	7.3	6.0	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.5	2.1	18.2	1.4	19.7	11.9
1975	2.9	3.5	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.4	1.9	11.6	0.6	12.2	22.1
1976	3.2	4.3	1.0	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.7	11.0	0.8	11.8	23.3
1977	3.5	4.4	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.8	13.2	1.0	14.2	28.6
1978	3.7	4.8	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.4	12.6	0.9	13.5	37.1
TOTAL												
1974	62.7	51.6	20.6	12.2	10.1	2.4	1.5	4.0	144.7	20.5	165.2	100.0
1975	19.3	14.9	7.1	4.1	4.4	1.2	1.5	2.8	48.3	7.0	55.2	100.0
1976	15.3	18.2	5.9	4.7	3.4	1.5	(a)0.8	1.1	44.7	6.1	50.8	100.0
1977	14.5	18.0	5.3	3.3	4.0	1.6	0.7	2.2	44.3	5.3	49.6	100.0
1978	13.2	11.5	3.5	1.8	3.0	1.0	0.4	1.8	32.2	4.1	36.3	100.0
PRIVATE SECTOR												
1974	49.0	43.0	16.1	10.4	8.6	1.8	n.a.	n.a.	115.4	16.0	131.3	79.5
1975	13.7	10.9	4.0	2.8	3.3	0.8	n.a.	n.a.	32.6	4.7	37.3	67.5
1976	11.6	14.2	3.6	3.2	2.5	(a)0.9	n.a.	n.a.	32.7	4.2	36.9	72.7
1977	9.8	13.0	(a)3.3	2.1	3.0	1.0	n.a.	n.a.	29.1	3.9	33.0	66.4
1978	9.3	7.0	1.8	1.1	2.0	0.5	0.2	*	18.8	3.4	22.2	61.1
GOVERNMENT SECTOR												
1974	13.7	8.6	4.5	1.8	1.5	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	29.3	4.6	33.9	20.5
1975	5.6	3.9	3.1	1.3	1.1	0.4	n.a.	n.a.	15.7	2.3	17.9	32.5
1976	3.7	4.0	2.3	1.5	0.9	0.5	n.a.	n.a.	12.0	1.9	13.9	27.3
1977	4.8	5.0	2.0	1.2	1.0	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	15.3	1.4	16.7	33.6
1978	3.9	4.5	1.7	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.5	13.4	0.8	14.1	38.9
MANUFACTURING (b)												
1974	26.4	25.4	5.7	5.6	3.5	0.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	67.8	41.0
1975	6.1	5.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	15.4	27.9
1976	5.0	6.5	1.3	1.6	0.9	0.3	n.a.	n.a.	14.6	1.1	15.7	30.9
1977	3.9	6.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	n.a.	n.a.	12.9	1.2	14.0	28.3
1978	4.7	4.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	*	0.1	9.2	1.3	10.5	29.0
NON-MANUFACTURING (c)												
1974	36.3	26.2	14.9	6.7	6.6	1.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	97.4	59.0
1975	13.2	9.8	5.9	2.8	3.1	0.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	39.8	72.1
1976	10.3	11.7	4.5	3.0	2.5	1.2	n.a.	n.a.	30.1	5.0	35.1	69.1
1977	10.6	11.4	4.4	2.3	3.0	1.1	n.a.	n.a.	31.5	4.1	35.6	71.7
1978	8.5	7.3	3.1	1.3	2.5	0.8	0.4	1.8	22.9	2.8	25.8	71.0

(a) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. See paragraph 14. (b) Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) Division C. (c) ASIC Divisions A to L, excluding Division C (manufacturing), Sub-divisions 01, 02 (agriculture, etc.) and 94 (private households employing staff), and defence forces.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

TABLE 2. JOB VACANCY RATES, MARCH 1974 TO MARCH 1978
(per cent)

March -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.0	6.7	5.6	3.6
1975	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	5.2	3.8	1.3
1976	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3	(a)3.1	1.4	1.2
1977	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.7	1.2
1978	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.3	0.8

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. JOB VACANCIES : OCCUPATION GROUPS (a), PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS, MARCH 1978

Major occupation group (a)		Private sector ('000)	Government sector ('000)	Total	
				Number ('000)	Per cent
0.	Professional, technical and related workers	2.3	5.2	7.6	20.9
1.	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	3.0	5.2	8.2	22.6
2.	Clerical workers	3.0	0.1	3.0	8.4
3.	Sales workers	0.1	—	0.1	0.3
5.	Miners, quarrymen and related workers	0.2	0.5	0.7	2.0
6.	Workers in transport and communication	12.7	1.6	14.3	39.5
4,7/8	Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (b)	0.9	1.5	2.3	6.5
9.	Service, sport and recreation workers	22.2	14.1	36.3	100.0
Total					

(a) Major occupation groups of the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) Includes farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters and related workers as reported by respondents whose principal industry was other than Agriculture, etc. (ASIC sub-divisions 01 and 02). Respondents whose principal industry was Agriculture, etc. were not included in the survey.

TABLE 4. JOB VACANCIES : SELECTED OCCUPATIONS, MARCH 1978

Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	Number ('000)	Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	Number ('000)
002-009	Professional engineers	(b)0.4	646	Motor vehicle mechanics	0.8
030-034	Nurses, including probationers and trainees	1.7	648	Sheetmetal workers	(b)0.4
041-059	Lecturers, teachers	0.4	653	Welders and flame cutters	(b)0.3
070	Draftsmen and tracers	(b)0.3	654	Boilermakers, structural steel workers	0.4
071-081	Technicians and technical assistants, n.e.c.	1.2	660-661	Electricians, electrical mechanics, electrical fitters	0.6
083	Social workers	0.3	670-672,735,737	Production-process workers, other than food and drink	2.0
100-106,110-119	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	1.0	743-745,748,750	Tradesmen's assistants	0.4
155	Stenographers and typists	1.8	673,697	Storemen and packers	0.9
161-163	Other clerical workers	6.0	767	Labourers, other than building and construction	1.5
200-201,211-217	Sales workers, excluding commercial travellers	3.0	772-781,783-785	Policemen	0.5
520-522,524	Drivers, road transport	0.3	801	Cooks, chefs, maids, catering and kitchen workers	0.5
609-612,614-617	Clothing trades workers	0.6	807-809	Waiters and bartenders	(b)0.3
642	Fitters, fitters and turners (so described)	1.4	815-816	Cleaners, offices, buildings	0.3
644	Metal machinists, machine setters, etc.	(b)0.5	821	Other occupations	8.6
			Total		36.3

(a) As defined in the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. See paragraph 14.

TABLE 5. JOB VACANCIES : INDUSTRIES (a), MARCH 1978

ASIC Code (a)				ASIC Code (a)			
Division	Sub-division	Industry (a)	Number ('000)	Job vacancy rate (per cent)	Division	Sub-division	Industry (a)
B		Mining	0.7	0.9	F		Wholesale and retail trade
C		Manufacturing	10.5	0.9	46-47		Wholesale trade
	21-22	Food, beverages and tobacco	0.7	0.4	48		Retail trade
	23-24	Textiles; clothing and footwear	1.1	1.0	G,H		Transport and storage; communication
	26	Paper, printing, etc.	0.6	0.6			
	27	Chemical, petroleum and coal products	0.5	0.7	I		Finance, insurance, real estate and business services
		Metal products, machinery and equipment	5.7	1.2	J,K		Public administration and defence; community services (b)
	29	Basic metal products	0.9	1.0			
	31-33	Fabricated metal products; other machinery, etc.	3.7	1.4	A,L		Other (c)
	32	Transport and equipment	1.1	0.8			
	25,28,34	Other	(d)1.9	(d)1.1			Total
D		Electricity, gas and water	0.4	0.4			
E		Construction	2.2	0.8			

(a) As defined in the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (ASIC). (b) Excludes defence forces. (c) Excludes agriculture (ASIC sub-division 01), services to agriculture (02) and private households employing staff (94). (d) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent. See paragraph 14.